(c)

	Owned	Charter Hired
ONGC	1	8
OIL	—	1

Royalty on Crude Oil payable to gujarat

655. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have examined the report of the Secretary-level Committee appointed by it to study the entire issue of royalty rates on crude oil payable to the State Governments concerned;

(b) whether it is a fact that royalty on crude oil payable to Gujarat is due since 1st April, 1987 and whether Government have taken a decision on the fixation of royalty rates;

(c) whether Government of Gujarat has been pressing for the payment of royalty by the Centre; if so what is their demand and whether the oil companies have been advised to make ad-hoc payment; if not what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) to (c). According to the provisions of the Oil Fields (Regulation and Development) Act, 1948 and the Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules, 1959, the rate of royalty cannot be enhanced in less than 3 years or beyond 20% of the price of the crude oil at the well-head. The last revision of the rate of royalty took effect from the 1st April, 1984.

The Government of Gujarat have requested for a review of the principles determining the rates of royalty payable to the State and have suggested a revision of the rate to Rs 683.50 per metric tonne with effect from 1-4-1987. They have also requested for an ad-hoc payment against a future revision of the rate of royalty.

No decision has been taken on a change in the rate of royalty.

Production of iodised Salt and table Salt

656. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the production of iodised salt against the total production of table salt in the country and what is the total requirement;

(b) whether Government have fixed some target for the production of iodised salt and by when it is likely to be achieved;

(c) which are the major companies producing iodised and industrial salts in the country, and what their production capacity and plans for expansion;

(d) whether Government have taken measures to augment the supply of iodised salt; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Total production of iodised salt during 1987-88 is about 17 lakh M.T. against the total requirement of edible salt of about 40 lakh M.T.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Government have decided to achieve universal iodisation of entire salt by 1992 in a phased manner.

(c) Over 300 parties have been permitted so far to go into production of iodised salt with a total annual installed capacity of over 46 lakh M.T. Some of the major companies producing iodised and industrial salt with their installed capacities in the country are given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below)

(d) and (e). Yes, Sir. The following measures have been taken by the Government for augmenting the supply of iodised salt:—

(i) Adequate capacity for production has been created.